

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the amended claims and the arguments set forth fully below. In the Office Action mailed July 10, 2008, claims 1-25 have been rejected. In response, the Applicants have submitted the following remarks, and amended claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-25 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amended claims and the remarks below.

Examiner Interview Summary

On September 3, 2008, the undersigned and Examiner Pannala conducted a telephonic Examiner interview. During the interview, the parties discussed the independent claim 1 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 by the references Bianco, Miyamoto and Slater. No agreement was reached during the interview, but the Examiner indicated that additional claim amendments may better clarify the independent claim 1 as to be allowable over said references. The Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for his kind attention and willingness to conduct this interview.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0249809 to Bianco et al. (hereinafter Bianco), in view of Japanese Patent JP02002027386A to Miyamoto (hereinafter Miyamoto), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,796,489 to Slater et al. (hereinafter Slater). The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Subject Matter of Dependent Claim 2

Within the Office Action, the Applicants have amended the independent claim 1 to include the limitations of the dependent claim 2. Within the Office Action, it is stated that the elements of claim 2, specifically an event manager, a rule set manager, and a task

generation manager are taught in Bianco, Figure 4, page 6, paragraph 92. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Referring to Figure 4, and page 6, paragraph 92 of the Bianco reference, the method 40 as depicted in the Bianco reference teaches a patient treatment pathway, and is described in paragraph 88, lines 5-6, and further in paragraphs 92-94. Referring to those cited paragraphs, the method 40 uses the "...above described electronic patient health care system 1 of Figure 1 to guide a patient along a treatment pathway associated with a medical event through the provisions of health information designed to educate and prepare the patient for the medical event and post-event recovery" [paragraph 92, lines 3-7]. Again, this figure and associated paragraphs depict a method, and not the structural components defined in the dependent claim 2, and now in the independent claim 1.

Continuing on with the description of Figure 4, a medical practitioner provides a diagnosis for the patient's ailment in step 41, and provides a practitioner's code to the patient for logging in to the health care information provider system [paragraph 92, lines 8-16]. The above-referenced description is the entire teachings of paragraph 92, and merely show that Figure 4 is a method 40 and that the first step in the method 40 is step 41, that allows a practitioner to provide a diagnosis and recommended treatment for a medical event to a patient with a practitioner's code for logging into the health care information provider system.

The Applicants cannot understand, and cannot find in the Bianco reference, a teaching of a task generator including an event manager for storing the electronic image file events, a rule set manager including at least one predetermined set of rules, each of said rules having at least one predetermined condition, and a task generation manager for comparing the electronic image files to the at least one predetermined set of rules, and generating one or more tasks if the electronic image file event meets said at least one predetermined condition.

In fact, nowhere in the Bianco reference are these elements taught, and especially not in Figure 4, page 6, paragraph 92. Even giving the Examiner the benefit of the remaining description of Figure 4, included in paragraphs 93 and 94, these paragraphs merely go on to describe the method 40 of Figure 4, wherein the patient is then able to log into the health core information provider system by inputting the code and the diagnosis, and in step 43

determining a treatment pathway, displaying the treatment pathway timeline in step 44, the patient interactively viewing the treatment pathway in step 45, the patient being instructed to perform a predetermined task in step 46, and the patient confirming the completion of the predetermined task in step 47. Again, the elements set forth in the dependent claim 2 are not taught by the progression of this method in Figure 4, and are not taught in paragraphs 92-94 of Bianco.

The Miyamoto reference is not cited in the Examiner's rejection of the dependent claim 2. Furthermore, the Applicants will discuss below once again that the Miyamoto reference does not teach the elements of independent claim 1 that the Office Action indicates.

It is indicated within the Office Action that the Slater reference has been utilized to teach the use of scanning equipment applications for electronic image files, and the Applicants respectfully submit that this Slater reference further does not teach the elements as set forth in the dependent claim 2. The Applicants will discuss further below the actual teachings of Slater.

The independent claim 1 is now directed to a system for generating one or more tasks related to one or more electronic image files, said system comprising: a storage medium including a set of instructions; a processor configured to execute the set of instructions; a scanning device application configured to extract a set of EIF batches from the electronic image files; an electronic document manager configured in the storage medium including an electronic image file database for storing the electronic image files; an electronic image file event generator for generating electronic image file events related to the set of EIF batches in response to the set of executed instructions; and a task engine configured in the storage medium, wherein the electronic document manager is configured to send the electronic image file events to the task manager, the task manager configured for generating a set of tasks related to the electronic image files based on the contents of said electronic image file events in the response to the set of executed instructions wherein said task engine further comprises a task generator including an event manager for storing said electronic image file events, a ruleset manager including at least one predetermined set of rules, each of said rules of at least one predetermined condition, and a task generation manager for comparing the electronic

image file events to said at least one predetermined set of rules and generating one or more tasks if the electronic image file events meet said at least one predetermined condition. As discussed above, neither Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, nor their combination teach the newly amended limitations from the dependent claim 2, nor the elements outlined in the argument set forth fully below. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater and their combination.

Claims 2-9 are dependent upon the independent claim 1. As discussed above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater and their combination. Accordingly, claims 2-9 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

In addition to the previous arguments with respect to the independent claim 1, the Applicants hereby respectfully renew their previous arguments with respect to the remaining independent claims, while adding some additional points therefor.

Renewed Arguments with Respect to Remaining Independent Claims

Referring to Figure 1 of the present application, a scanning application or device 30, 28, 32 sends an EIF batch 26, 32 to the electronic document manager (EDM) 22. The EDM stores this EIF batch of the image in a database, and creates a set of EIF events from the batches and communicates these EIF events to the task engine 24. The batch that is communicated to the EDM includes files of the images from the scanning applications in a standard format, e.g., insurance cards, forms, invoices. The EIF events, after being sent to the task engine, are compared with a set of predetermined rules with a rule set manager such that a set of EIF tasks are created in response to the EIF events being compared to the rule sets. Therefore, these EIF tasks are produced and are specifically responsive to each of the batches extracted from the electronic images from the scanning applications.

In short, the system and method of the present application receives batches from electronic images, produces a set of event files from those batches, and compares those events to a set of predetermined rules so that a set of tasks may be produced, wherein the tasks are in direct response to the electronic images.

Within the Office Action, the Examiner cites page 2, paragraph 17; Figure 2b, page 5, paragraph 89; Figure 2a, page 5, paragraph 87; page 3, paragraph 23, and page 13, paragraph 139 to teach all aspects of the independent claims 1 and 14 except that the Examiner submits that the Bianco does not teach generating electronic image file events. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this assessment of the Bianco reference in that specifically these cited passages do not teach extracting an EIF batch from electronic images, nor transferring these batches to an electronic document manager, wherein an EIF event is produced and sent to a task manager.

Again, the Bianco reference does include both post event sets 22 of electronically displayable files and pre-event sets 20 of electronic lead displayable files that include task files, that when selected have a set of instructions that the patient should follow. However, Bianco does not teach receiving EIF batches extracted from electronic imaging files from a scanning application, producing EIF events from these batches, and producing a set of tasks responsive to the EIF events being compared to a set of predetermined rules. In Bianco, a patient merely clicking on a post or pre-event electronically displayable file prompts those files to provide the patient with the included task file that instructs the patient to perform a predetermined task as discussed in paragraphs 88 and 89 of Bianco. In other words, **Bianco merely teaches providing tasks when a file displayable on a screen is selected by a user.**

While the Miyamoto reference does indeed teach generating a metadata file corresponding to an image data file, in Figure 1, step S105, Miyamoto does not teach all of the steps listed above that the Applicants submit the Bianco reference does not teach. Therefore, even if the references are combined, they do not teach a scanning device application configured to extract a set of EIF batches from the electronic images, nor a task engine configured to receive a set of tasks from an EDM and provide a set of tasks corresponding to the set of electronic image files. The combination of Bianco and Miyamoto merely teach a displayable file, that when selected, displays an included set of tasks related to that file, and a computer (Figure 1 of Miyamoto) that generates a metadata file corresponding to an image data file S105. Therefore, even if combined, the Bianco and Miyamoto references do not teach the system and method of the present application.

The Slater reference teaches a system and method of processing electronic documents with embedded digital signals, and the Office Action utilizes the Slater reference to teach using a scanning device application for electronic image files. However, the Slater reference does not teach any of the limitations of the dependent claim 2, nor an electronic document manager, an electronic image file event generator, nor a task engine, as claimed and described in the present application.

The independent claim 10 is directed to a computer implemented method of generating one or more tasks related to one or more electronic image files stored in an electronic document manager, said method comprising the steps of: receiving a set of EIF batches extracted from the one or more electronic image files, the one or more electronic image files received from a scanning application, separating one or more electronic image file events related to the set of EIF batches; sending the one or more electronic image file events to a task engine; entering a predetermined set of rules into the task engine, each of said rules having at least one predetermined condition; comparing said one or more electronic image file events to said predetermined sets of rules; and outputting one or more tasks if said one or more electronic image file events meets said at least one predetermined condition. As described above with respect to the independent claim 1 neither Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, nor their combination teaches the configuration as taught in the present application.

Claims 11-13 are dependent upon the independent claim 10. As discussed above, the independent claim 10 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, and their combination. Accordingly claims 11-13 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 22 is directed a storage medium in which is contained a program generating one or more tasks related to one or more electronic image files stored in an electronic document manager, the electronic document manager being configured in the storage medium, the program comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform the steps of: receiving a set of EIF batches extracted from the one or more electronic image files, the one or more electronic image files received from a scanning application; generating one or more electronic image file events related to the one or more

electronic image files; retrieving a predetermined set of rules, each of said rules having at least one predetermined condition; comparing said one more electronic image file events to said predetermined set of rules; and outputting one or more tasks if said one or more electronic image file events meets said at least one predetermined condition. As described above, neither Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, nor their combination teach the configuration as taught in the present application.

Claims 23-25 are dependent upon the independent claim 22. As discussed above, the independent claim 22 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, and their combination. Accordingly, claims 23-25 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 14 is directed to a system for generating one or more tasks related to one or more electronic image files, said system comprising: a storage medium including a set of instruction; a processor configured to execute the set of instructions; a scanning device application configured to extract a set of EIF batches from the electronic image files; an electronic document management module configured in the storage medium including an electronic image file database for receiving from a user and storing the electronic image files; an electronic image file event generator submodule for generating electronic image file events related to the EIF batches in response to the set of executed instructions; and a task engine module configured in the storage medium, wherein the electronic document manager is configured to send the electronic image file events to the task manager, the task manager configured for generating a set of tasks related to the electronic image files based on the contents of said electronic image file events in response to the set of executed instructions, said task engine module including a task generation submodule including an event manager for receiving and storing said electronic image file events, a ruleset manager including at least one predetermined set of rules provided by the user, each of said rules having at least one predetermined condition, and a task generation manager for comparing the electronic image file events to said at least one predetermined set of rules and outputting one or more task if the electronic image file events meet said at least one predetermined condition to the user. As described above with respect to claim 1, neither

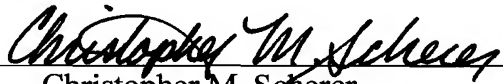
Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, nor their combination teach the configuration as taught in the present application image files. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 14 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco, Miyamoto, Slater, and their combination.

Claims 15-21 are dependent upon the independent claim 14. As discussed above, the independent claim 14 is allowable over the teachings of Bianco. Accordingly, claims 15-21 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at 414-271-7590 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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